

1. (Currently Amended) A method for selecting a workflow, said method comprising the steps of:

constructing a set of possible workflows meeting a workflow specification having a predetermined input and a required output, using components having defined inputs and outputs;

calculating a predetermined an exposure cost measure for each of the possible workflows in the set of possible workflows, said exposure cost measure being based upon, in part, details of critical information that is temporarily stored between processing steps within each of said possible workflows; and

selecting the constructed set of possible workflows for which the predetermined exposure cost measure is calculated to be a minimum.

2. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of storing a library of components from which possible workflows can be constructed.

3. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of defining [[an]] said exposure cost measure to be representative of an amount of information that a constructed workflow exposes.

4. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of defining [[an]] said exposure cost measure to be representative of a duration for which a constructed workflow exposes information.

5. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of defining [[an]] said exposure cost measure to be representative of an amount of information that a constructed workflow exposes, and a duration for which information is exposed.

6. (Currently Amended) A computer system for selecting a workflow comprising computer software recorded on a computer-readable medium, said software comprising instructions executable by said computer system, said instructions causing said computer system to comprising:

means for constructing construct a set of possible workflows meeting a workflow specification having a predetermined input and a required output, using components having defined inputs and outputs;

means for calculating a predetermined calculate an exposure cost measure for each of the possible workflows in the set of possible workflows, said exposure cost measure being based upon, in part, details of critical information that is temporarily stored between processing steps within each of said possible workflows; and

means for selecting select the constructed set of possible workflows for which the predetermined exposure cost measure is calculated to be a minimum.

7. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for selecting a workflow comprising computer software recorded on a computer-readable medium for performing the steps of:
 - constructing a set of possible workflows meeting a workflow specification having a predetermined input and a required output, using components having defined inputs and outputs;
 - calculating an a predetermined exposure cost measure for each of the possible workflows in the set of possible workflows, said exposure cost measure being based upon, in part, details of critical information that is temporarily stored between processing steps within each of said possible workflows; and
 - selecting the constructed set of possible workflows for which the predetermined exposure cost measure is calculated to be a minimum.
8. (Currently Amended) The computer system in claim 6, further comprising means for storing said instructions causing said computer system to store a library of components from which possible workflows can be constructed.
9. (Currently Amended) The computer system in claim 6, further comprising means for defining an said instructions causing said computer system to define said exposure cost measure to be representative of an amount of information that a constructed workflow exposes.
10. (Currently Amended) The computer system in claim 6, further comprising means for defining an said instructions causing said computer system to define said exposure cost measure to be representative of a duration for which a constructed workflow exposes information.
11. (Currently Amended) The computer system in claim 6, further comprising means for defining an said instructions causing said computer system to define said exposure cost measure to be representative of an amount of information that a constructed workflow exposes, and a duration for which information is exposed.
12. (Previously Presented) The computer program product in claim 7, further comprising the step of storing a library of components from which possible workflows can be constructed.
13. (Currently Amended) The computer program product in claim 7, further comprising the step of defining [[an]] said exposure cost measure to be representative of an amount of information that a constructed workflow exposes.
14. (Currently Amended) The computer program product in claim 7, further comprising the step of defining [[an]] said exposure cost measure to be representative of a duration for which a constructed workflow exposes information.
15. (Currently Amended) The computer program product in claim 7, further comprising the step of defining [[an]] said exposure cost measure to be representative of an amount of

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information that a constructed workflow exposes, and a duration for which information is exposed.